



Virginia Economic Update

November 18, 2016

Summary

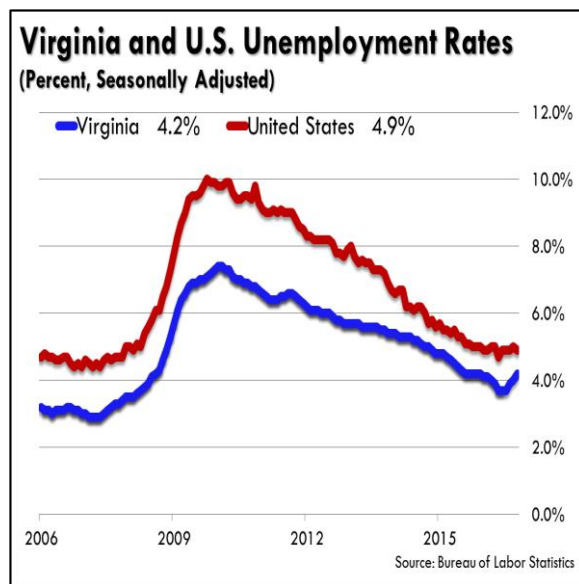
Nonfarm payroll employment in Virginia increased by 4,900 jobs, and the unemployment rate rose to 4.2 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Virginia Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Virginia increased by 0.2 percentage point to 4.2 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 8,066 in October to 176,503, while the labor force grew by 27,001 to 4,247,959. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 15 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Virginia. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Virginia stood at 4.2 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Virginia was 7.4 percent in February 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Virginia occurred in December 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 7.9 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Virginia was 2.9 percent in May 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Virginia occurred in November 2000 when the unemployment rate was 2.1 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.9 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Virginia Payroll Employment

Virginia nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,900 jobs, or 0.12 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 11,900. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Virginia increased by 67,300, or 1.73 percent. Virginia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

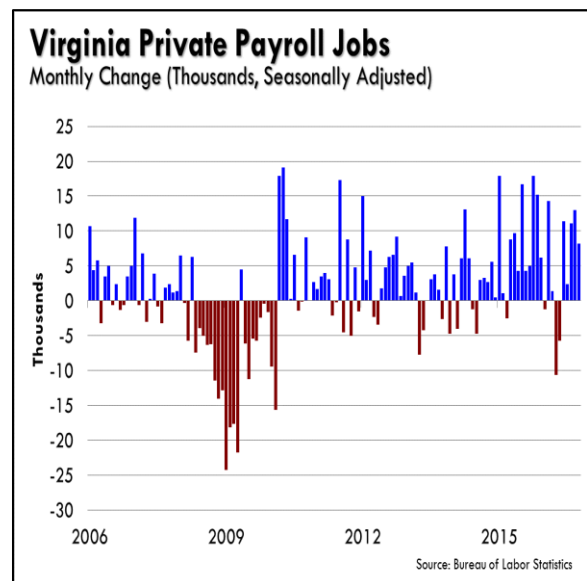
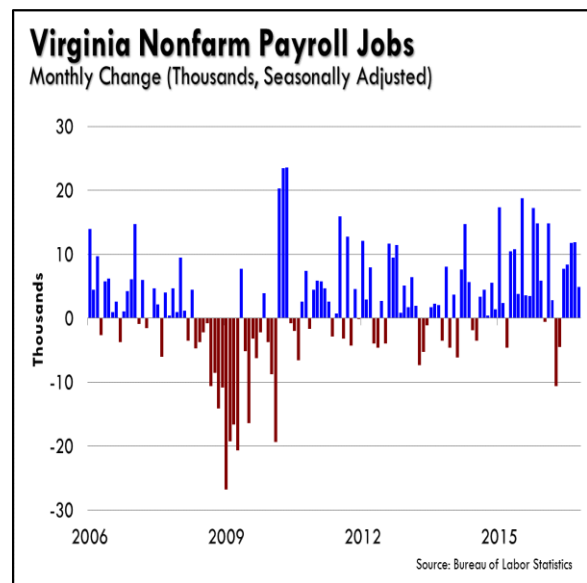
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 161,000 jobs in October, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending October 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,357,000 jobs, or 1.65 percent. Virginia ranks 23rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Virginia private-sector payrolls increased by 8,200, or 0.25 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 13,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Virginia increased by 65,700, or 2.07 percent. Virginia private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 142,000 jobs in October, or 0.12 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,149,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.78 percent. Virginia ranks 20th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

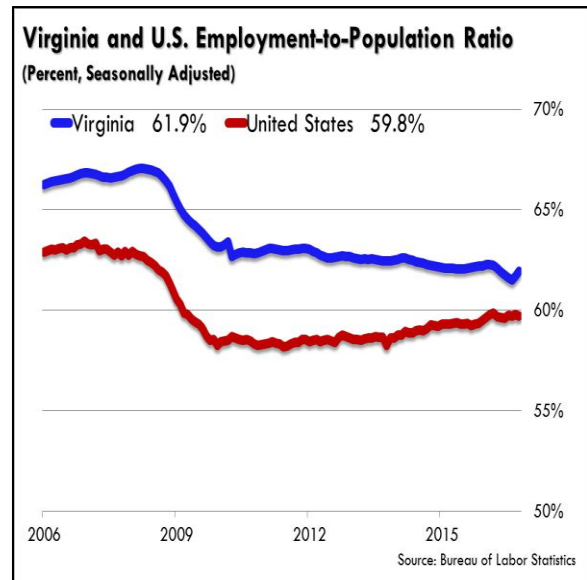
During October, total government payroll employment in Virginia declined by 3,300, or 0.46 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 1,600, or 0.90 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 3,000, or 1.83 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 1,900, or 0.51 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,600, or 0.23 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.31 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 1,100, or 0.29 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Professional & Business Services (+6,900) and Leisure & Hospitality (+3,400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-3,300), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-900), and Other Services (-900).

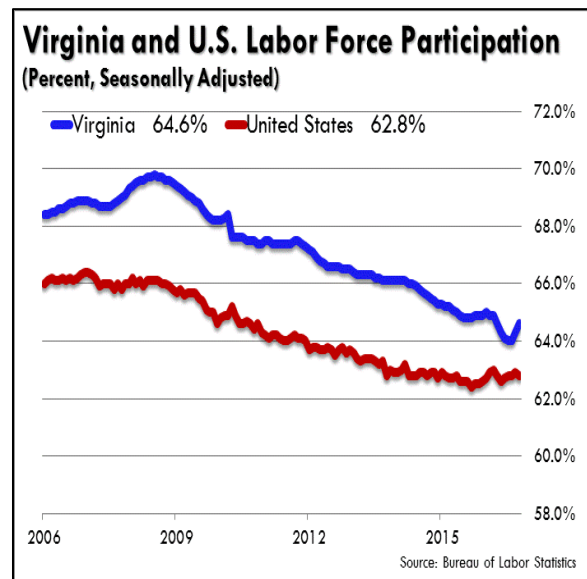
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+26,100) and Educational & Health Services (+15,300). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-5,400) and Information (-1,800).



Other Virginia Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Virginia rose to 64.6 percent in October from 64.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 21 have a higher labor force participation rate than Virginia. The labor force participation rate in Virginia is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Virginia was 69.8 percent in July 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Virginia occurred in May 1992 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.5 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.0 percent in August 2016. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Virginia.



The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in October 2016, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Virginia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 61.9 percent in October from 61.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the

District of Columbia, 18 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Virginia. The employment-to-population ratio in Virginia is 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia was 67.0 percent in May 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Virginia occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 67.1 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 61.5 percent in August 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in October 1982 when the employment-to-population ratio was 60.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.1 percentage point to 59.7 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for November is scheduled for release on December 16, 2016. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 2, 2016.